**~~World~~ Banned Book Day**

World book day began 20 years ago, and it is a day for adults and children of any age to come together and celebrate their love of books loudly and happily. It is the aim of the world book day company to encourage children to enjoy the pleasures that books can give them. With the help of the **Nation Book Tokens LTD** they can distribute 15 million book tokens to children throughout the country. World book day is an amazing experience for a lot of people and operates in over 100 countries.

World Book Day 2017 turned out to be a day of protesting in Eastwood High School, with many

books being banned and confiscated by the Book Brigade and many unhappy faces. Books like Harry Potter were prohibited as it “is unrealistic and promotes witchcraft”. The Hunger Games were not allowed for “promoting violence”. In fact, in America, Harry Potter is the most banned book in the whole country and in Thailand arrested 3 students in November 2014 for possessing this book and Thailand have also banned the Hunger Games salute and serious consequences will follow if it is used. Books all over the school were deemed “inappropriate” and this led to an uprising from teachers and pupils.

Many teachers (not just English teachers) were pro books. Teachers like Miss Hendry in art, Mr Duffin, Mr Brannan, Miss Baillie, Mrs Smith, Mrs Gordon and Miss Crane in English, Miss Workman in drama and Mr Fairlie and Mrs Anderson in music. Mr Duffin proclaimed that “The most powerful delivery system ever invented for an idea is a story and stories come from everywhere and by trying to understand other people’s stories we can become better people. The idea of stopping that from happening is horrifying.” Miss Workman protested that “Today is a reminder that we have the freedom to read and are lucky to live in a society that does not censor our imaginations.” And finally, Mrs Gordon informed us that “Books are a vital part of our democracy and we need to fight for our freedom!”.

However, some teachers who were pro books thought of this theme as exciting and enjoyed it. Mrs Smith said “I found it really exciting, looking at banned books and teaching others about why books are banned.” Miss Crane also thought that “It was an excellent theme. It is really important to highlight to pupils that books are seen as political weapons but that they enrich lives and teach us about our lives and others. We can sit in a classroom all day and travel anywhere in the world. With books, we can conquer the world!” Many pupils agreed with these statements and when the liberated were returned there was an uproar of celebration and it really highlighted to the pupils the importance of reading

World book day didn’t just affect the teachers. Many pupils were desperate to be allowed to read and hated having their books torn away from them. Esha Kaur, a distraught book loving S2 simply said “I just want my book back”, and an anonymous S2 told us that “They are destroying the fun of books! Although these pupils were begging to have their books BACK some pupils in third countries are begging just to have book. By giving out book tokens and donating books to charity we can help ensure these children have the same right as we do to just read!

World book 2017 was a fun, protest filled day for everyone and some of the costumes really stood out. Miss Crane as Effie Trinket, Mr Duffin as Sherlock homes, Miss Baillie as Coraline, Mrs Foster as Black Beauty, Mrs Gordon as Wonder Woman and many more! Many pupils, that when asked said that people dress up to bring books to life and just have fun! One things for certain, this is a world book day that no one at Eastwood High is going to forget.